



NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Urges North Dakotans To Get Involved During National Preparedness Month

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is recognizing National Preparedness Month in September by urging all North Dakotans to be prepared and get involved in preparedness activities, such as the Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve (PHEVR).

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. This includes getting a family emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about different threats and getting involved in preparing communities.

“Volunteers will be crucial during an emergency,” said Tim Wiedrich, director of Emergency Preparedness and Response for the North Dakota Department of Health. “Volunteers will be needed to assist public health in both medical and non-medical roles. During this preparedness month, we ask all North Dakotans to consider joining our Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve.”

The North Dakota Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve, a statewide effort known as PHEVR, is composed of both medical and non-medical volunteers who will assist during a public health emergency. The PHEVR program was recently approved as an official federal Medical Reserve Corps Unit.

To register as a PHEVR volunteer or for more information about the program, visit www.ndhan.gov or call Tim Wiedrich, Emergency Preparedness and Response Section, at 701.328.2270. More information about preparedness month and how to prepare your family can be found at www.ready.gov.

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